AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Weldable component of structural steel, ~~characterized in that its~~wherein the chemical composition comprises, by weight:

$$0.10\% \leq C \leq 0.22\%$$

$$0.50\% \leq Si \leq 1.50\%$$

$$0\% < Al \leq 0.9\%$$

$$0\% \leq Mn \leq 3\%$$

$$0\% \leq Ni \leq 5\%$$

$$0\% \leq Cr \leq 4\%$$

$$0\% \leq Cu \leq 1\%$$

$$0\% \leq Mo + W/2 \leq 1.5\%$$

$$0.0005\% \leq B \leq 0.010\%$$

$$0\% < N \leq 0.025\%$$

optionally at least one element selected from V, Nb, Ta, S and Ca, at contents of less than 0.3%, and/or from Ti and Zr at contents of less than or equal to 0.5%, the remainder being iron and impurities resulting from the production operation,

the contents of aluminum, boron, titanium and nitrogen, expressed in thousandths of %, of the composition also satisfying the following relationship:

$$B \ \geq \ \frac{1}{3} \times K + 0.5, \qquad (1)$$

with $K = \quad \text{Min} \ (I^* \ ; \ J^*)$

$\qquad I^* = \ \text{Max} \ (0 \ ; \ I) \qquad \text{and} \qquad J^* = \text{Max} \ (0 \ ; \ J)$

$\qquad I = \ \text{Min}\big(N \ ; \ N - 0.29\big(\text{Ti} - 5\big)\big)$

$\qquad J = \ \text{Min}\left(N \ ; 0.5\left(N - 0.52 \ \text{Al} + \sqrt{(N - 0.52\,\text{Al})^2 + 283} \ \right) \right),$

the contents of silicon and aluminum of the composition also complying with the following conditions:

if C > 0.145, then Si + Al < 0.95;

~~and~~ whose structure is bainitic, martensitic or martensitic-bainitic and also comprises from 3 to 20% of residual austenite; and

the chemical composition also satisfies the following relationship:

%Cr + 3(%Mo + %W/2) ≥ 1.8.

2.   (currently amended): Steel component according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that its~~ wherein chemical composition also satisfies the following relationship:

1.1%Mn + 0.7%Ni+ 0.6%Cr + 1.5(%Mo + %W/2) ≥ 1   (2)

3.   (currently amended): Steel component according to claim 2, ~~characterized also in that its~~ wherein the chemical composition also satisfies the following relationship:

1.1%Mn + 0.7%Ni+ 0.6%Cr + 1.5(%Mo + %W/2) ≥ 2   (2)

4.   (canceled)

5.   (currently amended): Steel component according to ~~claim 4~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that its~~wherein chemical composition also satisfies the following relationship:

$$\%Cr + 3(\%Mo + \%W/2) \geq 2.0.$$

6.   (withdrawn): Method for manufacturing a weldable steel component according to claim 1, wherein

- the component is austenitized by heating at a temperature of from Ac_3 to 1000°C, and it is then cooled to a temperature of less than or equal to 200°C, in such a manner that, at the core of the component, the rate of cooling between 800°C and 500°C is greater than or equal to the critical bainitic velocity,

- optionally, tempering is effected at a temperature of less than or equal to Ac_1.

7.   (withdrawn - currently amended): Method according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~wherein, at the core of the component, the cooling rate between 500°C and a temperature of less than or equal to 200°C is from 0.07°C/s to 5°C/s .

8.   (withdrawn - currently amended): Method according to claim 6 or 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein tempering is effected at a temperature of less than 300°C for a period of time of less than 10 hours, at the end of the cooling operation to a temperature of less than or equal to 200°C.

9.   (withdrawn - currently amended): Method according to claim 6 or 7, ~~characterized in that~~<u>wherein</u> no tempering is carried out at the end of the cooling operation to a temperature of less than or equal to 200°C.

10.   (withdrawn - currently amended): Method for manufacturing a weldable steel plate according to claim 1, the thickness of which is from 3 mm to 150 mm, ~~characterized in that~~<u>wherein</u> the plate is quenched, the cooling rate V_R at the core of the component between 800°C and 500°C and the composition of the steel being such that:

$$1.1\%Mn + 0.7\%Ni + 0.6\%Cr + 1.5(\%Mo + \%W/2) + \log V_R \geq 5.5$$

wherein V_R being in °C/hour.

11.   (withdrawn - currently amended): Method for manufacturing a weldable steel plate according to claim 10, the thickness of which is from 3 mm to 150 mm, ~~characterized~~<u>wherein</u>, in addition, ~~in that~~ the plate is quenched, the cooling rate V_R at the core of the component between 800°C and 500°C and the composition of the steel being such that:

$$1.1\%Mn + 0.7\%Ni + 0.6\%Cr + 1.5(\%Mo + \%W/2) + \log V_R \geq 6$$

wherein V_R being in °C/hour.

12.   (withdrawn): Method according to claim 6, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

$$1.1\%Mn + 0.7\%Ni + 0.6\%Cr + 1.5(\%Mo + \%W/2) \geq 1 \qquad (2)$$

13.   (withdrawn): Method according to claim 12, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

1.1%Mn + 0.7%Ni+ 0.6%Cr + 1.5(%Mo + %W/2) ≥ 2   (2)

14.   (canceled).

15.   (withdrawn - currently amended): Method according to ~~claim 14~~claim 6, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

%Cr + 3(%Mo + %W/2) ≥ 2.0.

16.   (withdrawn): Method according to claim 10, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

1.1%Mn + 0.7%Ni+ 0.6%Cr + 1.5(%Mo + %W/2) ≥ 1   (2)

17.   (withdrawn): Method according to claim 16, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

1.1%Mn + 0.7%Ni+ 0.6%Cr + 1.5(%Mo + %W/2) ≥ 2   (2)

18.   (canceled).

19.   (withdrawn - currently amended): Method according to ~~claim 18~~claim 10, wherein the chemical composition of the steel satisfies the following relationship:

%Cr + 3(%Mo + %W/2) ≥ 2.0.